

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.

Practice Speaking: Which of these statements describe you?

1. I am talkative and outgoing.
2. I frequently think out loud.
3. I enjoy being the center of attention.
4. I don't usually tell people what I'm thinking.
5. I strive to be unobtrusive. I don't want people to notice me.
6. I frequently imagine how I could make things better.
7. I am a detail oriented person.
8. I find games interesting and entertaining. I enjoy games.
9. I don't care for games. I think they are a waste of time. I'd rather put my time into something that has practical applications.
10. When I travel, I don't like to plan ahead. I enjoy things that happen spontaneously. I usually don't look for a hotel until I arrive in a town.
11. When I travel, I make sure I have everything planned out and organized. I make all the reservations ahead of time.

Irreversible binomials and trinomials are sequences of two or three words that are in a fixed order, such as fast and furious. We never say furious and fast. We say, "It costs an arm and a leg." We never say, "It costs a leg and an arm. That would sound very strange. Note: If something costs an arm and a leg, it is very expensive.

Name one thing that costs an arm and a leg.

alive and kicking: I may be 95 years old, but at least I'm alive and kicking.

What age would you like to live until?

all or nothing: Sally wouldn't accept partial payment. She said it was all or nothing.

apples and oranges: (comparing two things that are not the same) You can't really compare her first book to this one. It's like comparing apples and oranges. Her first book was non-fiction. This is a mystery novel.

armed and dangerous: (is used to refer to a criminal who has not yet been captured and is armed and expected to resist arrest). The police have a warrant out for the arrest of John Smith for murder. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

bait and switch: (This means a deceptive marketing practice where one item is advertised, but when the customer arrives the salesman says they are out of that item, but they have this other one which is more expensive. So they "bait" you with an offer that they don't really have, then

“switch” to another item.) I went to the store to buy the refrigerator advertised in the paper, but they said they were out of that model. The only refrigerators they had in stock were several hundred dollars more. I was really disappointed and a little angry.

Have you ever been the victim of a bait and switch?

bed and breakfast: (Usually refers to someone’s house where you rent a room and are provided breakfast as part of the rate. Occasionally small boutique inns use this term.) All the hotels were full, but we found a great little bed and breakfast in the center of town.

Have you ever stayed in a bed and breakfast?
Do you prefer a bed and breakfast to a hotel room?

birds and the bees: (refers to human reproduction) My son is almost 9 years old. I guess I need to talk to him about the birds and the bees.

At what age do parents usually talk to their kids about the birds and the bees? Is “sex education” taught in schools in your country?

biscuits and gravy: We had a country breakfast consisting of bacon and eggs, biscuits and gravy and plenty of piping hot coffee.

Have you ever eaten a big southern style breakfast that included biscuits and gravy? What was your favorite part of this breakfast? Describe your favorite breakfast. Is that what you eat every day? What is served for breakfast in your country?

black and blue: Gina wasn’t hurt in the car wreck, but she had lots of cuts and bruises. She was black and blue all over.

Have you ever been in an accident that left you black and blue?

blood, sweat and tears: After years of blood, sweat and tears, Jane finally got her nursing degree.

What do you have that is the result of blood, sweat and tears?

born and raised: (refers to being born and living all of your childhood in one place) I was born and raised in Texas.

Did you move frequently as a child, or were you born and raised in one place?

brick and mortar: This term refers to a store or other business that has a physical location. The stores in the mall are brick and mortar businesses. Compare that with a business that operates entirely online.

Do you prefer to shop online or at a brick and mortar store?

Note: Mortar is the stuff you put between the rows of bricks that looks like concrete and holds the bricks together.

Nose and Ear Idioms--Read the conversations. Explain the conversation. Tell what the idioms mean. Students, ask questions about the meaning so you are sure you understand.

Amy: My father is very laid back. Nothing bothers him. He is content to come home from work, put on some shorts and a t-shirt and sit on the back porch with a beer. My mother, on the other hand, is very busy and organized. She can't stand to waste time and she can't understand how my dad can just sit in his chair and do nothing. As you might expect, my mother **leads my father around by the nose**. My father goes along with whatever decisions Mom makes.

Jane: My father is different from yours. I don't think my dad ever relaxes. He has very strong opinions about everything. And he thinks he is always right. He's **hard-nosed** about his opinions. You can argue with him, but you will never change his mind.

Contrast Amy's dad and Jane's dad.

Rhoda: Our neighbor is so **nosey**. She wants to know what everyone is doing. When we back out of our driveway, she stands in the street and wants to know where we are going. I've even caught her **nosying around** in a neighbor's trash can. She is an eavesdropper too, so we have to be careful what we say when we are in **earshot** of her yard. She can hear our conversation from her back porch.

Tanya: That's awful. She's a **busybody**. She should **keep her nose out of everyone's business**.

Rhoda: One positive thing is, If there is ever a crime on our street, she'll figure out who did it.

Tanya: Haha. That's true.

Do you feel your home is very private? How do you protect your privacy in your home?

Tom: My brother was in trouble a lot in his teen years, but he has **kept his nose clean** for the last five years. He hasn't broken any laws or gotten in any kind of trouble. I'm proud of him. He was never a bad kid, he just didn't always use good judgment.

Sandy: I bet your mom is happy your brother is doing so well.

Tom: Oh yeah. For a while we all thought he would end up in prison. He was the **black sheep** of the family for several years.

Do you have any relatives or friends who have reformed? In other words, they've **cleaned up their act** and are **on the straight and narrow path** now?

Shelley: The senator **has the president's ear**, so if you want something done, go to the senator.

Les: I don't think the senator is very smart. I'm not sure he **has much between his ears**. He **looks down his nose** at all the aids and secretaries. He thinks he is too important to mix with the little people.

Shelley: He's not that smart, but he **keeps his ear to the ground**. He always knows what people are thinking about or planning to do. That is valuable for the president. It can be very isolating to be the president. Presidents need someone like the senator to gather information. If you want, I can **put a bug in his ear** about the project you are promoting.

Les:Let's **play it by ear**. We may not need to involve the senator and president to get this project approved. It has a log of support in Congress.